

The Constitution Of the University of Arkansas Rich Mountain Student Government Association

The Preamble

We the students of the University of Arkansas Rich Mountain, in order to form a democratic, efficient and responsible Student Government to represent, lead, and unify the student body, to decide and recommend for the students upon any matter involving the student interests, to promote common understanding between students, faculty, and administration, while protecting the individual rights, do hereby establish and adopt this Constitution for the University of Arkansas Rich Mountain Student Government Association.

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the University of Arkansas Rich Mountain Student Government Association, henceforth referred to as the SGA.

Article II – Purpose

Section 1. The SGA shall serve as the student governance vehicle.

Section 2. The SGA shall represent, lead, and unify the student body.

Section 3. The SGA shall aid the college in its large purposes of education.

Section 4. The SGA shall make recommendations concerning student issues to the University of Arkansas Rich Mountain administration.

Section 5. The SGA shall act as a means of preserving and attaining the well being of the college community.

Section 6. The SGA shall encourage enthusiastic school support.

Article III – Organization

The Student Government Association shall consist of elected Senators, the Executive Council and Constitutional Committees.

Section 1 - Membership

A. Elected Senators

- a. There shall be one (1) elected Senator from each of the following academic divisions; Social Science, English, Business, Computer Technology, Science, Math, Nursing, and Machine Tool Technology. (This number will change as the college's academic structure changes).
- b. There shall be three (3) Senators At-Large which shall be comprised of students involved in programs other than degree or certificate programs.
- c. All School Senators must be in good standing with the college.
- d. To qualify to run for a senatorial position the student must be taking classes within one of the college's academic programs.
- e. Students must meet the qualifications for the position by August 1st of the year they will serve.
- f. If a student runs for a position in the Spring and does not meet the requirements of their position by August 1 of the Fall semester, their seat will be filled in accordance with the procedure to fill vacancies
- g. Vacancies in senate positions may be filled with approval of the senate upon recommendation by a faculty member in the division in which the vacancy occurs.

Section 2 - Elected Officers

- A. The elected officers shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.
- B. Each office shall be elected by a means of a campus-wide election held in the spring semester.
- C. The elected officers shall be a full-time students and must maintain a 2.5 grade point average or above, and must be in good standing with the College. All elected officers must meet the classification requirements by August 1 of the year they serve.

Section 3 - Appointed Officers

- A. Appointed officers shall include, but not be limited to the parliamentarian.
- B. Other positions shall be appointed as deemed necessary by the President, such as public information officer, historian, or conference coordinator.
- C. Appointed and Executive Council members must maintain a 2.25 grade point average or higher, and must be in good standing with the College.
- D. All appointed officers require a majority approval of the Senate members voting.

Section 4- Executive Council

- A. The Executive Council shall consist of all elected officers and committee chairs.
- B. Other officers appointed by the President shall also be members of the Executive Council.
- C. The Executive Council shall act in the absence of the Senate and shall approve or disapprove all actions by the President with exception of the bylaws.

Section 5 - Committees

- A. There shall be three (3) constitutional committees – Activities Committee, Finance Committee, and Election Committee.
- B. Ad hoc committees may be created at the discretion of the President to address issues or concerns as they arise.
- C. Members of committees must receive approval by a majority vote of the SGA members voting.

Section 6 - Advisors

- A. The Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs shall appoint the Administrative Advisor(s) to the SGA. The Administrative Advisor(s) shall
 - a. Serve as approving authority for SGA operations
 - b. Serve as liaison with college administration
 - c. Forward all actions of SGA through college channels.
 - d. Supervise all functions of SGA
 - e. Attend all SGA meetings.
- B. One faculty advisor shall be selected by the SGA. The Faculty Advisor shall
 - a. Serve as a liaison to the Professional Association
 - b. Act as a consultant to SGA body
 - c. Assist in supervising SGA activities.
 - d. Be confirmed by majority of SGA members present.
 - e. Attend all SGA meetings.

Article IV - Powers and Duties

Section 1 - President

- A. The President shall
 - a. Preside over meetings.
 - b. Appoint members of committees with a majority approval of members voting being required for committees.
 - c. Be an ex officio member of all committees and councils.
 - d. Appoint students to all College Committees by August 1st each year.

- e. Be the official representative of the SGA at all times when the Senate is not available for a decision.
- f. Have two weeks to veto an issue passed by the Senate. The Senate can override the veto by a two-thirds vote during the next two consecutive Senate meetings.
- g. Have the ability to call special meetings.
- h. Review and recommend all budgets submitted by the Finance Committee.
- i. Vote only in the case of a tie.
- j. Be responsible for attending meetings under the same rules as the other elected representatives.

Section 2 - Vice President

- A. The Vice President shall
 - a. Perform duties of President, if the President is not available to serve.
 - b. Be a voting member of the SGA.
 - c. Maintain a calendar of all SGA meetings, committee meetings and events.
 - d. Be responsible for attending meetings under the same rules as the other elected representatives.
 - e. Chair Senate meetings in the absence of the President or Speaker of the Senate.
 - f. Assume all responsibilities as delegated by the President of SGA.

Section 3 - Treasurer

- A. The Treasurer shall
 - a. Keep all financial records of the SGA.
 - b. Submit in writing to the SGA at the first meeting of each month an itemized statement of funds spent, funds appropriated, and funds remaining.
 - c. Cooperate with the appropriate administrators in the achievement of the Treasurer's duties.
 - d. Be a voting member of the SGA.
 - e. Chair the Finance Committee, but votes only in the case of a tie.

Section 4- Secretary

- A. The Secretary shall
 - a. Keep all records of the SGA except those of finances.
 - b. Maintain a record of all proceedings and makes copies for members of the SGA and its advisors.
 - c. Receive and send all official correspondence of the SGA. Receive all petitions and requests to be listed on the agenda, and present such materials to the President.
 - d. Keep attendance records at all official SGA meetings.
 - e. Be a voting member of the SGA.
 - f. Be responsible for attending meetings under the same rules as the other elected representatives.

Section 5 - Parliamentarian

- A. The Parliamentarian shall
 - a. Oversee all SGA proceedings in accordance with the parliamentary procedures set forth in the bylaws.
 - b. Assist the President or Speaker of the Senate in keeping order.
 - c. Receive majority approval of the Senate members voting.
 - d. Be a nonvoting member of the SGA.
 - e. Be responsible for attending meetings under the same rules as the other elected representatives.

Section 6 – Senators

- A. The Senators shall
 - a. Uphold this Constitution, its bylaws, and all other laws and regulations passed under its direction.
 - b. Perform duties delegated to them by SGA and keep SGA informed of the opinions of their constituents.
 - c. Create and write legislation pertinent to issues that concern the student body.
 - d. Serve as a liaison between their respective divisions and the SGA.

- e. Be voting member of the SGA.
- f. The Senate shall hold the Executive Council responsible for actions taken in their absence.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1 - Meeting time and place

- A. The Student Senate shall meet every week at a time and place as specified by the President of SGA (or as specified in the bylaws).
- B. Special meetings may be called as deemed necessary by the President or by majority of the members.
 - a. Previous notice to all members must be attempted.
 - b. Quorum must be present to conduct official business.

Section 2 – Quorum and absences

- A. All meetings shall be open.
- B. A quorum of fifty (50) percent, plus one, of the voting membership must be present to transact business.
- C. After the three unexcused absences of elected Senators, the Senator will no longer be a member of the organization.

Article VI – Legislation

Section 1 – Legislation passage

- A. All legislation shall originate in and be passed by the Senate of the SGA.
 - a. Upon its passage, the presiding officer must sign all legislation on behalf of the Senate at the time.
 - b. The acting secretary shall verify the signing of the legislation by signature.
- B. Legislation having received the required vote for passage through the Senate of SGA shall be submitted to the President of SGA for approval or veto. Failure or refusal on the part of the President to sign a piece of legislation within two weeks of its passage through the Senate shall constitute a veto.
- C. Should the President veto a piece of legislation, the Senate shall have two consecutive meetings in which to consider an override of the veto.
 - a. The first meeting after the announcement of the veto shall be considered the first consecutive meeting.
 - b. It shall take a two-thirds of the Senate to override a veto.
- D. Once the SGA President approves legislation, or should the Senate override a Presidential veto, legislation shall be enacted and forwarded to the SGA Administrative Advisor(s) for approval.
- E. All officers shall be required to follow up on all legislation passed.

Article VII - Committees: Powers and Duties

Section 1

- A. The SGA shall have three (3) constitutional committees; the Finance Committee, Election Committee and Activities Committee.

1) The Finance Committee

- a. Consists of four (4) members.
- b. Shall be chaired by the SGA treasurer.
- c. Shall form all budgets for the SGA and present to the SGA President for review and recommendations.

1. Student Government Operating budget

- a. The treasurer shall present the budget to the Senate for approval. Once approved, the Senate shall approve any deviations or reallocations.
- b. On approval, the SGA budget will be forwarded through appropriate administrative channels for consideration.

2) Election Committee

- a. Shall be chaired by a member of the committee, who shall be voted on by committee members.
- b. Shall facilitate and regulate all campus wide elections, whether set elections or special elections.

3) Activities Committee

- a. Shall be chaired by a member of the committee who shall be voted on by committee members.
- b. Shall plan, produce, and facilitate extra-curricular activities for the students and college community.
- c. Members of all constitutional committees shall receive a majority approval of the SGA.

Section 2 Ad Hoc Committees

- A. The President may initiate committees to review issues or concerns at the President's discretion.
- B. Members will require majority approval of the Senate.
- C. Senators may form committees as designated by the accepted parliamentary procedures.

Article IX – Impeachment

Section 1

- A. Impeachment charges against Senators or Officers are brought to the attention of the SGA by a petition signed by five percent of the student body (derived from most recent Fall semester head count as reported to the State Regents of Higher Education) or by a signed motion of any five (5) SGA members.
- B. To initiate impeachment charges, a majority vote is required of the SGA.
- C. The accused senator or officer has the right of protest and a defense.
- D. After a full and fair hearing of charges and defense and a due deliberation by the SGA acting as jurors, and with the President of the SGA, 3/4 of the total membership of the SGA is needed to remove the incumbent.
- E. The President or the highest-ranking officer shall assume the chair during all impeachment proceedings involving Senate or Executive Officers.

Article X – Amendments

Section 1

- A. Any SGA member may bring proposed amendments to the Constitution before the SGA.
 - a. A proposed amendment to the Constitution will be placed on the agenda at the next regular meeting.
 - b. Approval by two-thirds of the SGA members present is required to place the proposed amendment on the ballot.
- B. Proposed amendments may also be brought before the student body for approval by a signed petition of five percent (5%) of the student body.

Section 2

Proposed Amendments shall be publicized at least one week prior to the voting date.

Section 3

Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the total ballots cast by the student body.

Section 4

Following approval by the student body, the amendment shall be presented to the administration for approval and will be incorporated in the Constitution upon their acceptance.

Article XI – Ratification

Section 1

The Constitution becomes effective upon three-fourths (3/4) approval of the Senate members voting, majority of the votes cast by the student body, and acceptance of the administration by all necessary legal means.

Article IX - Discrimination

Section 1

The SGA does not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, religion, disability, or national origin.